

REMARKS

Consideration of the above referenced application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

35 USC § 121

In applicants' parent application, restriction had been required under 35 USC § 121 to Group I, claims 1-5 directed to an method for increasing the stability of internal combustion engine exhaust gas catalysts by removing phosphorus compounds out of the exhaust gas; and Group II, claim 6, directed to a device for increasing the stability of internal combustion engine exhaust gas catalysts by removing phosphorus compounds.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-5. Applicants have canceled claim 6 without prejudice to filing a divisional application.

Title

The Title has been amended to reflect the elected invention.

Abstract of the Disclosure

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to comply with the Examiner's suggested amendments in applicants' parent application.

Specification and Claims

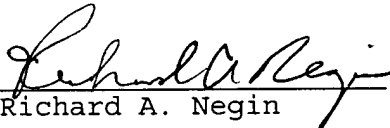
The specification and claims have been amended consistent with the amendments in the parent application.

1002797-12004

4479C (CON)
Prior Application 09/156,697
Amendment
December 20, 2001
Page 5

Preliminary to examination, applicants have amended the above referenced application to more specifically present invention. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with applicants' attorney would advance the prosecution of this application to finality, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,


Richard A. Negin
Reg. No. 28,649

Engelhard Corporation
101 Wood Avenue
P. O. Box 770
Iselin, New Jersey 08830-0770
Tel: (732) 205-6241

1002797-12001

Tracked Claims Illustrating Amendments

1. (Amended) A method of increasing the ~~long term stability of~~
~~[components of an exhaust system, in particular,]~~ catalysts for
purifying the exhaust gases of an internal combustion engines of the
type which combusts fuel and uses engine oil and which has an exhaust
system, wherein the exhaust gas is purified with respect to comprises
volatile phosphorus compounds before contact with the components or
before entering the catalyst comprising metering a metal or metal
compound for conversion of the volatile phosphorus compound into non-
volatile solid compounds in the form of fine inert solid particles
into the exhaust gas, separately from the engine oil and the fuel,
upstream of the catalyst, wherein the non-volatile solid particles are
so fine that they pass unstopped through the entire exhaust.

2. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the volatile
phosphorus compounds in the exhaust gas are removed by reactions with
~~metals or metal compounds~~ the metal or metal compound which form solid
metal-phosphorus compounds with the volatile phosphorus compounds.

3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~1~~2, wherein calcium or a
calcium compound is used as the metal or metal compound.

4. (Amended) The method as claimed in claims ~~2-1~~ or 32, wherein the
metal or metal compound for conversion ~~with~~ of the volatile phosphorus
compound is metered ~~into the exhaust gas upstream of the catalyst~~
selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Cu, Ag, Mg, Ca, Zn,
Al, Y and rare earth metals and metal compounds.